



Washington State Senate

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Strannigan's senior tax-relief measure goes to governor

OLYMPIA...A proposal to expand property-tax relief for low-income senior citizens passed the Legislature today and is on its way to Gov. Gary Locke, who is expected to sign the bill.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Gary Strannigan, R-Everett, gives tax exemptions to senior and disabled homeowners with incomes up to \$30,000 a year. Senior citizens and retired disabled people previously qualified for property tax exemptions if their income did not exceed \$28,000 a year.

Strannigan said the proposal helps low-income seniors keep up with inflation.

"This is an inflation adjustment designed for seniors living on small, fixed incomes who have tremendous difficulty dealing with the rising cost of living," said Strannigan. "This proposal takes a step to help them keep their homes and live independently."

Under provisions of the bill, seniors may only use the exemption for their primary residence. They must also prove ownership of the property, be at least 61 years of age or meet disability requirements. The bill goes into effect with taxes due in 1999.

The measure, SB 6533, has been sent to the governor who has 20 days to sign it.